

corner of a mail item where the mail item is inserted in the first direction, the second direction and any direction intermediate thereto.

As such, it is submitted that the invention as now defined in claim 12 is clearly distinguished over the disclosures of Salomon.

With regard to new claims 13 to 23, these claims are dependent upon an allowable independent claim, new claim 12, and thus themselves allowable.

Claim 24 has been amended to require that the face of the sensor unit is normally located to extend from adjacent ends of first and second guides across a corner of a predetermined location at which a mail item is to be located.

As apparently noted by the Examiner, in Salomon, the second projection (19b) of the arm (19) extends into a space between the ends of the first and second registration walls (11,13), but does not extend from the ends of the first and second registration walls (11, 13).

As such, it is submitted that the invention as now defined in claim 24 is clearly distinguished over the disclosures of Salomon.

Claim 25 defines *inter alia* that the mail location apparatus includes a support platform for supporting a mail item located in a predetermined location at which the mail item is to be located and a reference wall for referencing the mail item located in the predetermined location, and that the face of the sensor unit extends at least beyond the support platform and the reference wall.

Salomon does not disclose or suggest a sensor unit which includes such a face.

In Salomon, the arm (19) is located above the deck portion (9), as a support platform onto which a mail item is fed, and is arranged to move thereover on engagement by the mail item. The arm (19) manifestly does not extend beyond the deck portion (9).

As such, it is submitted that the invention as defined in claim 25 is clearly distinguished over the disclosures of Salomon.

We believe the claims now presented patentably distinguish the prior art, and the application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully,



Charles W. Fallow
Reg. No. 28,946

Shoemaker and Mattare, Ltd.
2001 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202

(703) 415-0810

January 13, 2003

B
12. (amended) Mail location apparatus operative to locate a mail item inserted therein at a predetermined location in first and second mutually perpendicular directions, including:

a first guide for engagement by a first edge of the mail item;
a second guide for engagement by a second edge of the mail item, the second edge being adjacent to and adjoining the first edge at a corner of the mail item; and
a sensor unit operative in response to the mail item being located in the predetermined location with the first edge engaging the first guide and the second edge engaging the second guide, the sensor unit including an elongate face engageable by the mail item, which face is inclined to both the first and second directions such as to be engaged by the corner of the mail item where the mail item is inserted in the first direction, the second direction and any direction intermediate thereto.

also D1

2
13. Mail location apparatus as claimed in claim *1* 12, wherein the first guide comprises a first guide wall extending lengthwise in the first direction, the second guide comprises a second guide wall extending lengthwise in the second direction, and the first and second guide walls define the predetermined location.

3
14. Mail location apparatus as claimed in claim *2* 13, wherein adjacent ends of the first and second guide walls are spaced apart and the face of the sensor unit normally is located to extend between the adjacent ends of the first and second guide walls across a corner of the predetermined location.

4
15. Mail location apparatus as claimed in claim *3* 14, wherein the sensor unit is responsive to displacement of the face thereof out of the predetermined location.

5
16. Mail location apparatus as claimed in claim *3* 14, wherein the sensor unit includes an element defining the face engageable by the corner of the mail item, the element being displaceable in a direction inclined to both the first guide wall and the second guide wall by insertion of the mail item into the predetermined location.

~~6~~ 17. Mail location apparatus as claimed in claim ~~16~~ 5, wherein the element is mounted on a pivot.

~~7~~ 18. Mail location apparatus as claimed in claim ~~16~~ 5, wherein the sensor unit includes a resilient member operative to urge the element to a location in which the face thereof extends across the corner of the predetermined location.

~~8~~ 19. Mail location apparatus as claimed in claim ~~16~~ 5, wherein the sensor unit includes a detector responsive to displacement of the element to a position in which the face thereof does not extend across the corner of the predetermined location.

~~9~~ 20. Mail location apparatus as claimed in claim ~~12~~ 1, further comprising:
a support platform for supporting the mail item located in the predetermined location; and a reference wall for referencing the mail item located in the predetermined location; ^{wherein} ~~herein~~ the face of the sensor unit extends at least beyond the support platform and the reference wall.

~~10~~ 21. Mail location apparatus as claimed in claim ~~20~~ 9, wherein the first and second guide walls extend from the reference wall, and the support platform is displaceable between an open position in which the mail item can be inserted into the predetermined location between the reference wall and the support platform and a closed position in which the mail item located in the predetermined location is held by the reference wall and the support platform.

~~11~~ 22. Mail location apparatus as claimed in claim ~~21~~ 10 in combination with a print head, wherein the reference wall has an aperture therein, and the print head is selectively operable to print a postal indicium through the aperture in the reference wall onto the mail item located in the predetermined location.

~~23. Mail location apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the face of the sensor unit is inclined at approximately 45 degrees to the first and second directions.~~

12
24. (amended) Mail location apparatus operative to locate a mail item at a predetermined location in first and second mutually perpendicular directions, including:

a first guide for engagement by a first edge of the mail item;

B
a second guide for engagement by a second edge of the mail item, the second edge being adjacent to and adjoining the first edge at a corner of the mail item; and

a sensor unit operative in response to the mail item being located in the predetermined location with the first edge engaging the first guide and the second edge engaging the second guide, the sensor unit including a face inclined to both the first and second directions and engageable by the corner of the mail item, the face being normally located to extend from adjacent ends of the first and second guides across a corner of the predetermined location.

25. ~~Mail location apparatus operative to locate a mail item at a predetermined location in first and second mutually perpendicular directions, including:~~

~~a support platform for supporting the mail item located in the predetermined location; and~~

~~a reference wall for referencing the mail item located in the predetermined location;~~

~~a first guide for engagement by a first edge of the mail item;~~

~~a second guide for engagement by a second edge of the mail item, the second edge being adjacent to and adjoining the first edge at a corner of the mail item; and~~

~~a sensor unit including a face engageable by the mail item, wherein the sensor unit is operative in response to the mail item being located in the predetermined location with the first edge engaging the first guide and the second edge engaging the second guide, the face of the sensor unit being inclined to both the first and second directions such as to be engaged by the corner of the mail item, and extending at least beyond the support platform and the reference wall.~~

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

12. Mail location apparatus operative to locate a mail item inserted thereinto at a predetermined location in first and second mutually perpendicular directions, including:

a first guide for engagement by a first edge of the mail item;

a second guide for engagement by a second edge of the mail item, the second edge being adjacent to and adjoining the first edge at a corner of the mail item; and

a sensor unit operative in response to the mail item being located in the predetermined location with the first edge engaging the first guide and the second edge engaging the second guide, the sensor unit including [a] an elongate face engageable by the mail item, which face is inclined to both the first and second directions such as to be engaged by the corner of the mail item where the mail item is inserted in the first direction, the second direction and any direction intermediate thereto.

24. Mail location apparatus operative to locate a mail item at a predetermined location in first and second mutually perpendicular directions, including:

a first guide for engagement by a first edge of the mail item;

a second guide for engagement by a second edge of the mail item, the second edge being adjacent to and adjoining the first edge at a corner of the mail item; and

a sensor unit operative in response to the mail item being located in the predetermined location with the first edge engaging the first guide and the second edge engaging the second guide, the sensor unit including a face inclined to both the first and second directions and engageable by the corner of the mail item, the face being normally located to extend [between] from adjacent ends of the first and second guides across a corner of the predetermined location.